

meetings conducted over VIT instead of having employees travel around the state to one central location. Many committees of the state legislature conduct public hearings via interactive television, so they can collect input from citizens without forcing them to travel to Montpelier.

A more recent innovation is the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center, a joint venture among VTC, the state's Department of Economic Development, and a couple of units of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In three years, this center has worked with more than 500 Vermont manufacturers in projects involving a number of trade associations, colleges, and other non-profit organizations.

The center has been in the forefront of efforts to raise Vermonters' awareness about the potential problems of Y2K or the Millennium Bug, which could cause most computers to malfunction on Jan. 1, 2000, because they may not be able to recognize the date. VMEC is closely affiliated with the state's Y2K Council and it's working with manufacturers to identify and head off any computer problems that could occur.

Whenever his institution lacks the expertise to pull off a full-fledged training program on its own, Clarke develops partnerships with other post-secondary institutions. Too many exist to name here, but VTC currently has 18 such joint projects with the University of Vermont alone.

Meanwhile, back on the campus, Clarke encourages innovation, but he runs a tight ship. Too tight for some faculty members, who over the years have chafed at the directions he wants to take the school, the speed with which he likes to make changes, and his impatience with those who disagree with him.

Early in his tenure, one teacher who was vocally less than enthusiastic about Clarke's plans did not have his contract renewed, despite the strong support of the rest of the faculty, who felt he was an outstanding teacher. Incensed, the faculty called for Clarke's resignation by a two-to-one margin. Clarke refused to resign, and he was wholeheartedly backed by the state-college trustees. That ended the faculty rebellion, but left many teachers with a long-simmering dislike and distrust of the president.

Some faculty leaders now argue that Clarke has changed since that confrontation. They think he's a bit more fair-minded and can now consider others' points of view, even when he disagrees with them. "He's developed a delicate touch in personnel matters," says Russ Mills, the veteran faculty member, who thinks that, if confronted with the same situation again, Clarke would react differently today.

Nonetheless, there's no question that Clarke likes to be in control of what's happening on his campus. Even today, he boasts that he personally interviews all finalists for campus jobs.

A quick review of several campus innovations by Clarke and his academic colleagues offers some idea of the breadth of his interests and concerns:

Several years ago, the college took over the state's training programs for Licensed Practical Nurses. It continued to offer the standard one-year program at four sites throughout the state, but added a second year for students interested in becoming Registered Nurses. And it offers academic credit for its programs, so that nursing students who wish to get bachelor's degrees can transfer to a four-year institution.

In 1989, the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology was founded. Under that program, gifted Vermont high-school students can enroll at VTC and simultaneously complete their final year of high school and

their first year of college work. VTC is accredited as a private high school for that purpose. Students who complete that year's work can continue there or transfer to another college.

The college plays host every summer to a Women-in-Technology program. About 250 young women spend a week on campus, where they engage in classes, seminars and workshops with female scientists and engineers, as a way of providing role models and encouraging more young women to consider careers in science and technology.

The Vermont Automobile Dealers' Association, worried about a critical shortage of auto technicians who can deal with the technology of modern cars, built and equipped an automotive technology center on the VTC campus, so that the college could add a two-year degree program in automotive technology. It now also provides scholarships for auto tech students.

Clarke seems to be willing to talk with just about any interest group that could conceivably help his institution. He once struck a deal with the state to buy a farm adjacent to the campus where officials wanted to locate a veterans' cemetery. He agreed to manage the cemetery—and VTC still does—in order to get the remainder of the land for campus expansion.

Not all such proposals come to fruition, however. Clarke offered land to the Woodstock-based Vermont Institute of Natural Science when it was looking for a new home last year (it decided to move elsewhere) and he had serious negotiations with Gifford Hospital in Randolph (where he once served on the board) to establish a nursing home that didn't work out, either. It was during that time, when negotiations were also under way for an early-childhood education program, that one faculty wag observed at a VTC meeting: "Now we can have it all—cradle to grave, without leaving campus."

What's next on the agenda for Clarke? For starters, he says he's committed to staying in Vermont. He admits that when he first took the job, he viewed it as a stepping stone, but he says the people here have been so welcoming and unlike the flinty New Englander stereotype, that he and his wife Glenda have fallen in love with the state and plan to stay. The college provides housing on the campus for the president, so the Clarkes built a "weekend" home in Addison, near Lake Champlain.

On the college front, he's planning more relationships with businesses. He's working to develop one with IDX, the Burlington-based medical-software company, which recently announced an expansion. He hopes to provide a six-month program of technical training to liberal-arts graduates.

Clarke also wants to assist Vermont businesses to get into what he calls "e-commerce," selling their wares over the Internet. "We know the technology and we can help," he says. "Most businesses are barely scratching the surface."

And he wants to encourage the state to come up with a coordinated effort to deal with vocational-technical education.

He applauds the efforts of the Higher Education Financing Commission on which he sat, but feels the key to having its recommendations work is a multi-year commitment by the state. For example, he notes that the new Trust Fund just passed by the Legislature is about \$8 million to start and its use is limited to the earnings from the amount.

"It's an important first step," he says, "but one that will have marginal impact until it grows." For each of the state colleges, the fund will produce about \$20,000 a year for scholarships as it now stands. He's disappointed, however, that there are no

"workforce development" funds. Most states provide funds for training and re-training workers, but in Vermont the cost must be borne entirely by the companies.

Unless, of course, some clever entrepreneur somewhere—someone like Bob Clarke—can find the money and the backing to put a package together.●

HONORING COLORADO STATE SENATOR TILMAN BISHOP

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I'd like to take a moment to honor an individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty and an individual the western slope of Colorado will find difficult to replace.

Senator Tilman Bishop, a true Colorado native, represented Colorado's 7th District in the Colorado State Senate for 24 years and before that, 4 years in the Colorado House of Representatives. From 1993 to 1998 he also served as president pro tem of the senate. His years of service rank him 4th in the State's history for continuous years of service and he is the longest serving senator from the western slope of Colorado.

Senator Bishop has, for decades, selflessly given of himself and has always placed the needs of his constituents before his own. I had the honor of serving with Senator Bishop in the Colorado State Senate from 1983 to 1990 and have always valued his advice and counsel.

The numerous honors and distinction that Senator Bishop has earned during his years of outstanding service exemplify his dedication to the legislature and his constituents. Senator Bishop's wisdom and knowledge will be sorely missed.

Senator Bishop's tenure in the State legislature ended in 1998. There are too few people in elected office today who are prepared to serve in the selfless and diligent manner of Tilman Bishop. His constituents owe him a debt of gratitude and I wish him and his wife Pat the best in their well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY BURNS OF FLORIDA

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a special milestone involving one of America's premier business and civic leaders, Mr. Anthony "Tony" Burns of Miami, Florida.

A quarter-century ago, Tony Burns began his career with Ryder System, Inc. in 1974, as the Director of Planning and Treasurer. Under his guidance, Ryder expanded to become the largest truck leasing and rental company in the world, and the largest public transit management company in the United States. Now serving as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tony celebrates his 25th anniversary with the firm on June 3, 1999.

While elevating Ryder's corporate status, Tony has helped lead the effort to make the workplace more family